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IKE Weather

Today

High: 55

Low: 48

Sunrise: 0630

Sunset: 1649

Isolated Showers



Tomorrow

High: 69

Low: 58

Sunrise: 0632

Sunset: 1646

Isolated Showers



United States Naval Academy Application Deadline Approaching for Sailors

By MCSN Nathan Parde

—5 Star Staff Writer

The United States Naval Academy is currently accepting applications from civilians and enlisted members of the armed forces.

Located in Annapolis, Md., the Naval Academy trains young men and women to become officers in the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps.

Interested applicants must be a United States citizen, unmarried and between the ages of 17 and 23 as of July 1, 2009. Applicants cannot have dependents or be pregnant at the time of application.

Teacher recommendations are required for applicants who are currently enrolled in school. A nomination is also required in order to receive an appointment to the Academy. Individuals can apply to their congressman, senator or the Vice President for a nomination. Enlisted members are also encouraged to apply for congressional



nominations.

Enlisted servicemembers who have been out of school for more than one year require two commissioned officers' recommendations in place of teacher recommendations. Servicemembers compete for 170 appointments annually and apply through their commanding officer. To receive a nomination from the Secretary of the Navy, a candidate

must have a combined SAT score (verbal and math) of 1050, or an ACT equivalent combined score of 46.

Enrollment is very selective. Out of approximately 4,000 men and women who apply each year, only about half of the applicants are qualified. Approximately 1,200 people are selected annually to become midshipmen,

Sports Corner

Louisiana High School Facing a Last Hurrah

By Jere Longman

— Courtesy of the Times Digest

VILLE PLATTE, La. — Late Friday afternoon, ankles taped, uniforms on, the Ville Platte High School Bulldogs boarded their team buses and drove into the sunset of a season, fearing that nightfall would soon come for the entire school.

"I'm full of emotions, but I don't know what to feel," Henry Alfred, a junior linebacker, said, knowing he might be playing his team's final football game of this or any future season. "I want to give it all I got, but I don't know if I want to cry or be mad."

This tiny, rural town in Cajun country is struggling again to find its racial equilibrium. A 43-year-old desegregation case remained unresolved on Nov. 4 as voters narrowly rejected a property tax increase to build a new Ville Platte High, which has faced decades of neglect since white flight accompanied integration in 1969.

It was the third "no" vote on a bond proposal in little more than a year. Now the predominantly black school of 400 students faces closure next May at the urging of the U.S. Justice Department, which has called Ville Platte High's deficient academic programs and deteriorated facilities a vestige of past discrimination.

A hearing on the school's fate is scheduled for Dec. 15 before the federal judge overseeing the case. If Ville Platte High ceases to exist, officials said, this town of 8,316 would be the only county seat in Louisiana's 64 parishes without a public high school. Students would be dispersed to one or more of the other three high schools in Evangeline Parish. But no Bulldog wants to be a Mamou Green Demon or a Pine Prairie Panther or a Basile Bearcat next season. Some said they might simply give up football.

"It would be some hard thinking," said Chris Frank, a sophomore full-

back. "I couldn't see myself in no other jersey."

He and his teammates may not have a choice.

Last March, the Justice Department dismissed as abysmal the Evangeline Parish school board's efforts to improve the 70-year-old brick structure and academic performance at Ville Platte High. The school is considered a failure under the No Child Left Behind Act and has been labeled academically unacceptable by the state.

In a court filing, the federal government pointed to "makeshift library shelves," chain locks on doors "so warped that they would not close," and concern that exterior walls of one classroom "will begin to collapse soon."

The school's athletic facilities are run-down. The visitors' grandstand at the football field has a wide crack along its brick facade, and the classrooms beneath the bleachers are no longer considered safe. The boys' basketball team has been a recent state power, but the court is not of regulation size, so the gym cannot be used for playoff games.

The Bulldogs finished second at the 2006 state track meet, a remarkable achievement considering that their track's rubberized surface has long worn away, leaving an abandoned oval of grass and cracked asphalt. If a light needs replacing at the football field, Coach Roy Serie said, "You're talking two years."

Peggy Edwards, the principal at Ville Platte High and an alumna, said she worried that some students might drop out instead of transferring. Some might face traveling 30 miles each way to school, and could be discouraged from participating in extracurricular activities, she said. What industry would come to a place with no public high school, she wondered. "I see a perishing city," Edwards said.

Questions of the Day



BMR

(1) What does MSC stand for?

EAWS



(2) What are the three levels of maintenance?

ESWS



(3) What is OPTAR?

Answers

(3) Operating target.

(2) Intermediate, Organizational and Depot.

(1) Military Sealift Command.

Continuous Process Improvement: Changing Sailor's Mindsets

By MC3(SW) Patrick Gearhiser
—5 Star Staff Writer

For many Sailors aboard the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69), the day-to-day routine is driven by various jobs and processes that to some, can seem too arduous and time consuming. The Sailors in the Continuous Process Improvement (CPI) office are working to streamline many tasks for their shipmates.

CPI studies the average time it takes most Sailors to perform basic shipboard tasks, such as checking out hazardous materials, and figures out how to make the process easier.

"If you have to get 5-6 signatures on 5 different sheets of paper when all you want is one item, how much value is really added to that process?" said Chief Aviation Electronics Technician (SW/AW) Michael Armetta, CPI's leading chief petty officer. "That's some of the things we're looking at; because that's the way it's always been done and no one's had an opportunity to go back and actually ask, 'Why isn't that different? Why isn't that easier to do? Why do we have to do it the same way it's always been done?' When the reason for it all may be a local instruction that's



Aviation Ordnanceman 3rd Class Kenneth Benedicto looks over lists of supplies stored in the hangar bay in order to better organize them. (U.S. Navy photos by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class (SW) Patrick Gearhiser)

not driven by a higher directive."

A request for this information originates from various locations and people around the ship.

"We have projects that are directed by the CO, XO, Department Heads, LCPOs and chiefs," Armetta said. "We look at process observation, timing the processes and seeing how long it normally takes to complete. We also do training on proper cleaning of

the workspace."

For the people working in CPI, it is an opportunity to work with Sailors of different rates to improve their shipmate's lives.

"I like working here," said Aviation Ordnanceman 3rd Class Kenneth Benedicto. "I work with every different rate. We have an MR, an AT, an MC, an FC and an ABH, it's good because it's different and diverse, you learn a lot of things. Everybody gets along

and it seems like it just clicked."

Armetta praises the people that he works with in their efforts to help their fellow Sailors.

"The Sailors in the shop really make everything happen," he said. "They really are on board with how things work in order to think outside of the box and look at different things as opposed to doing things the way they've always been done." ★

IKE's Security Forces Capture Stowaway



Master-at-Arms 2nd Class Alexia White holds a stowaway found within the skin of the ship. Members of IKE's Security Department spent time today capturing this small bird. The captive was then safely released. (Photos by NCIS Special Agent Gerhart)



SAILOR IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Seaman Joseph Anifowose

Deck Department

Seaman Joseph Anifowose, 20, joined the Navy in November 2007 to earn money for college and better himself.

He is originally from Oklahoma City, Okla. and graduated from South East High School in December 2007. While in high school, he played for his school's football, basketball and baseball teams.

Anifowose reported to IKE in March 2008 and became part of Deck Department. He is currently assigned to IKE's Morale, Welfare and Recreation Division. Some of his responsibilities in MWR include sales and customer service.

Some of his short-term goals include earning his barber license and an Associate's degree in economics before his first enlistment ends. His long term goals include owning a barber shop.

In five years, Anifowose sees himself completing his Bachelor's degree and having a family.

In his free time, Anifowose enjoys cutting hair, reading, studying his Bible and listening to music.

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or students at the Naval Academy.

After attending the academy for four years, midshipmen graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree and are commissioned as ensigns in the Navy or second lieutenants in the Marine Corps. Graduates are obligated to serve a five-year commitment following their commission.

Candidates who have applied to the Naval Academy will be notified of the final status of their application by April 15, 2009. ★

National News**Veterans' Families Seek Aid as Caregivers***By Leslie Kaufman*

Courtesy of the Times Digest

Tracy Keil met her husband, Matt, in August 2005 between his first and second tours of duty in Iraq. They married in January 2007.

Six weeks later Keil, a staff sergeant, was shot in the neck while on patrol in Ramadi and was rendered a quadriplegic.

Because her husband, now 27, could no longer take care of himself, Mrs. Keil, 31, quit her job as an accountant to take care of him.

She tried to hire others to help her, a service that is paid for by the government, but after going through four workers in nine months she gave up.

She said many of the caregivers from contractors

on the government-provided list "were awful." One did not know how to use the lift system that hoists Keil out of bed; another gossiped about the family's private business.

But the real problem was that even the good caregivers could not help Keil live as he wanted. Regulations, for example, do not permit them to take him out of the house. "Matt is back to his old self and we like to get out and about, go grocery shopping or see a movie," Mrs. Keil said. "He doesn't want just a baby sitter."

Although Keil gets a full disability pension of \$6,800 a month and their house in Parker, Colo., was donated to them, they have lost Mrs. Keil's salary of \$58,000 a year, as well as employer contributions to her retirement account, and her dental plan.

Broader compensation for family members has become a pressing issue, veterans' groups say, because better medical technology has allowed so many soldiers to survive with serious injuries.

In the last session of Congress, legislation was proposed that would allow families of soldiers with traumatic brain injuries to be paid for their caretaking after training and certification by Veterans Affairs.

The bill did not come up for a vote, but the families think it stands a better chance next year because President-elect Barack Obama has endorsed other supportive legislation and because the future first lady, Michelle Obama, has said helping veterans' families will be a priority to her.

MWR Note

IKE's Morale, Welfare and Recreation Division are selling tickets for the Holiday party. The MWR window is open from 9-11 a.m. and noon to 1:30 p.m. in port and is open from 9 to 11 a.m., noon to 4 p.m. and 6 to 9 p.m. underway.

COST:

E4 & below = \$5.00/person

E5-E6 = \$15.00/person

E7 & above = \$20.00/person

There is a four ticket limit at these prices. Each additional ticket is \$25.00. The deadline to purchase tickets at these prices is Nov. 25 at noon.

MWR will provide free child care by Navy certified caregivers. Sailors must sign up with MWR no later than Nov. 20 at 7 p.m.

Now Playing on I&KE Movies

Channel 5

9 a.m. *Analyze This*
 11 a.m. *Ice Age*
 1 p.m. *Edward Scissor Hands*
 3 p.m. *Analyze This*
 5 p.m. *Ice Age*
 7 p.m. *CO's Corner*
 7:30 p.m. *Training*
 8:30 p.m. *Slow Burn*
 10 p.m. *Edward Scissor Hands*
 12 a.m. *Analyze This*
 2 a.m. *Ice Age*
 4 a.m. *Edward Scissor Hands*

Channel 6

9 a.m. *Lords of Dogtown*
 11 a.m. *Mars Attacks*
 1 p.m. *One of the Hollywood*
 3 p.m. *Lords of Dogtown*
 5 p.m. *Mars Attacks*
 7 p.m. *CO's Corner*
 7:30 p.m. *Training*
 8:30 p.m. *Mirrors*
 10 p.m. *One of the Hollywood*
 12 a.m. *Lords of Dogtown*
 2 a.m. *Mars Attacks*
 4 a.m. *One of the Hollywood*

Channel 7

9 a.m. *Predator*
 11 a.m. *Weekend at Bernie's*
 1 p.m. *Taxi Driver*
 3 p.m. *Predator*
 5 p.m. *Weekend at Bernie's*
 7 p.m. *CO's Corner*
 7:30 p.m. *Training*
 8:30 p.m. *Waterboy*
 10 p.m. *Taxi Driver*
 12 a.m. *Predator*
 2 a.m. *Weekend at Bernie's*
 4 a.m. *Taxi Driver*

Around the World

Iraqi Bridge Where Hundreds Died Reopens

By Stephen Farrell

— Courtesy of the Times Digest

BAGHDAD — Shiites walking east and Sunnis walking west met at the midpoint of a newly reopened bridge on Tuesday, seeking to reclaim a landmark that had long symbolized the divide between two Baghdad communities similar in name but polar opposites in sectarian makeup.

For three years Shiites from one, Kadhimiya, and Sunnis from the other, Adhamiya, have been unable to use the crossing, the Aamma Bridge of the Imams in northern Baghdad. It was closed after one of the worst disasters of the post-invasion era: in August 2005, rumors of a suicide bomber provoked a frenzied stampede in a procession of Shiite pilgrims.

Nearly 1,000 people died.

Tuesday's reopening, attended by senior Iraqi military commanders and American officers, was a carefully managed set piece on tarmac covered in drips of fresh red, black, white and green paint — the colors on the Iraqi flag. The ceremony was conducted under heavy guard, with American Humvees on the perimeter and helicopters circling overhead.

Just 24 hours earlier a synchronized triple-bombing in Adhamiya killed 28 people, according to an Interior Ministry official. The American military put the figure much lower, at five.

But on Tuesday, the only blood in sight was of sheep slaughtered in

celebration as hundreds of people marched from both sides to meet in the middle.

The revival of the bridge was more than symbolic. Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's government was keen to put cars and trucks back onto this major traffic artery, as part of its drive to open up Baghdad's blocked roads, which create huge congestion for the city's estimated 1.3 million vehicles.

Iraqi armored vehicles lined the approach roads to the bridge, which run past two of the country's most famous mosques: the golden Kadhimiya shrine, burial place of the eighth-century saint Imam Musa al-Kadhim, and the ornate Abu Hanifa Mosque, burial place of the Islamic religious scholar known as Imam Adham.

Tensions between the communities run deep. Sunni Adhamiya, now walled off from other neighborhoods of overwhelmingly Shiite east Baghdad, was a stronghold of support for Saddam Hussein, whereas Kadhimiya's shrine is the holiest in Baghdad for Shiites.

In Adhamiya, Muhanned Saleh, 46, said he believed the opening meant "a new and good stage of non-sectarianism."

But not all Iraqis in the two neighborhoods were convinced. Another man in Adhamiya, Nazar al-Azawi, 42, said he was not yet comfortable "because the security situation is not good and maybe the opening of the bridge will be exploited to inflame troubles again."



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